

Message Text

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44

ACTION H-03

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O R 311445Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6107

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1882

FOR SENATOR MCGOVERN FROM CHARGE VELIOTES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)

SUBJ: CODEL MCGOVERN

1. PRESS INTEREST IN YOUR VISIT TO ISRAEL AMONG LOCAL NEWS CORPS HAS HIGHTENED CONSIDERABLY WITH PUBLICATION HERE OF YOUR MEETING WITH ARAFAT. WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SERVERAL REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS WITH YOU, AND ANTICIPATE MORE.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JERUSALEM POST, IN TYPICAL TREATMENT, QUOTES YOU AS SAYING FOLLOWING YOUR MEETING WITH ARAFAT QUOTE: AMERICAN POLICY SHOULD TAKE INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION THE QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING THE PLO....IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR SOME KIND OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL ENTITY TO EMERGE, BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE STABILITY IN THE AREA UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS EXERCISE AN EFFICIENT POLITICAL EXISTENCE. END QUOTE.

3. EDITORIAL IN PRESTIGIOUS HAARETZ SAYS YOUR MEETING WITH ARAFAT IS OF " OMINOUS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE", ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT ARAFAT'S ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY (SIC) FOR SAVOY HOTEL SEEMS TO MAKE NO DIFFERNE IN ACCEPTABILITY OF PLO. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT YOUR MEETING IS " INDCIATIVE OF TWO PROCESSES WHICH SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO ISRAELI

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GOVERNMENT: EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AMONG AMERICAN

STATEMEN AND LIGITIMIZATION OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS".

4. WE HAVE NOTED YOUR PREFERENCE NOT TO HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE HERE. (BEIRUT 3703). WE BELIEVE PRESS
INTEREST IN YOUR VISIT IS SUCH, HOWEVER, THAT YOU MIGHT
LIKE TO CONSIDER MEETING WITH SELECTED FEW REPORTERS.

5. AS YOU ARE BY NOW AWARE, AMBASSADOR KEATING HAS BEEN
CALLED TO WASHINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN REASSESSMENT OF US
REGIONAL POLICY, AND I WILL BE CHARGE DURING
YOUR VISIT. WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS YOUR
DESIRED APPROACH TO PRESS WHEN WE MEET SHORTLY AFTER
YOUR ARRIVAL. WE WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL
GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT YOU MIGHT WISH TO SEND PRIOR TO
THAT TIME.
VELIOTES

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